Claims

method of installing licensed software on an end user's computer comprising: providing an end user computer having a program storage device and a unique computer identifier distinguishing the end user computer from other computers; 4 providing a network computer having access to a program storage device containing 5 software for license to end users and a program storage device containing a database listing computer identifiers licensed to run the software; 6 7 using the network computer to contact the end user computer and determine its end user compute identifier; 8 9 verifying listing of the end user computer identifier in the network computer database; downloading the software from the network computer; and 10 11 installing the downloaded software on the end user computer program storage device.

- The method of claim wherein the unique computer identifier is selected from the group consisting of a BIOS serial number and a network adapter address.
- The method of claim 1 wherein on installation on the end user computer program storage device, the software comprises a program for execution on the end user computer.
- The method of claim 1 wherein the network computer includes a plurality of different software and, prior to downloading the software, further including:

 identifying to the end user computer all of the software on the network computer program storage device listed as licensed by the computer identifier of the end user computer; and sending from the end user computer to the network computer a selection of the software to be downloaded,
- and thereafter downloading and installing on the end user computer program storage device the selected software.

545 B	5. The method of claim 4 wherein the identification to the end user computer of all
1	$\int 5$. The method of claim 4 wherein the identification to the end user computer of all
2	the software on the network computer program storage device listed as licensed by the
3	computer identifier of the end user computer is by an executable program on a program
4	storage device of the network computer.

- 6. The method of claim 5 wherein prior to identifying to the end user computer the software on the network computer program storage device, further including:

 sending to the network computer, from the end user computer, a command to run the program identifying to the end user computer the software listed as licensed by the computer identifier of the end user computer.
- 7. The method of claim 6 wherein the program identifying to the end user computer the software listed as licensed by the computer identifier is not installed on the end user computer.
- 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the end user computer program storage device contains a damaged version of the software to be downloaded, and wherein the installation of said software corrects the damaged software.
- A method of installing licensed software on an end user's computer comprising:

 providing an end user computer having a program storage device and a unique
 computer identifier distinguishing the end user computer from other computers;

 providing a network computer having access to a program storage device containing a
 plurality of different software for license to end users, the software comprising
 programs for execution on end user computers, and a program storage device
 containing a database listing computer identifiers licensed to run the software;

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	81	using the network computer to contact the end user computer and determine its end
	9	user computer identifier;
	10	verifying listing of the end user computer identifier in the network computer database;
	11	identifying to the end user computer all of the software on the network computer
	12	program storage device listed as licensed by the computer identifier of the end
	13	user computer;
	14	sending from the end user computer to the network computer a selection of the
	15	software to be downloaded;
	16	downloading the selected software from the network computer; and
	17	installing the downloaded software on the end user computer program storage device.
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T.	1	10. The method of chaim 9 wherein the unique computer identifier is selected from the
	2	group consisting of a BIOS serial number and a network adapter address.
	1	11. The method of claim 9 wherein the identification to the end user computer of all
	2	the software on the network computer program storage device listed as licensed by the
W W	3	computer identifier of the end user computer is by an executable program on a program
	4	storage device of the network computer.
	1	12. The method of claim 11 wherein prior to identifying to the end user computer the
	2	software on the network computer program storage device, further including:
	3	sending to the network computer, from the end user computer, a command to run the
	4	program identifying to the end user computer the software listed as licensed by
	5	the computer identifier of the end user computer.
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1 /3. A method of installing licensed software on an end user's computer comprising:

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- The method of claim 13 wherein the unique computer identifier is selected from 14. the group consisting of a BIO\$ serial number and a network adapter address.
- The method of claim 13 wherein the network computer includes a plurality of 15. different software and, prior to downloading the software, further including: identifying to the end user computer all of the software on the network computer

program storage device listed as licensed by the computer identifier of the end 4 user computer; and 5

> sending from the end user computer to the network computer a selection of the software to be downloaded,

and thereafter downloading and installing on the end user computer program storage device the selected software.

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The method of claim 15 wherein the identification to the end user computer all of the software on the network computer program storage device listed as licensed by the computer identifier of the end user computer is by an executable program on a program storage device of the network computer.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein prior to identifying to the end user computer the software on the network computer program storage device, further including: sending to the network computer, from the end user computer, a command to run the

program identifying to the end user computer the software listed as licensed by the computer identifier of the end user computer.

A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for installing licensed software from a network computer to an end user's computer, said network computer having access to a program storage device containing software for license to end users and a program storage device containing a database listing computer identifiers licensed to run the software, said end user computer having a program storage device and a unique computer identifier distinguishing the end user computer from other computers, said method steps comprising:

contacting the end user computer using the network computer;

determining the end user computer identifier;

verifying listing of the end user computer identifier in the network computer database;

downloading software from the network computer; and

installing the downloaded software on the end user computer program storage device.

1 19. A computer program product for use with a network computer and an end user's computer, said computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for installing licensed

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4	software from the network computer to the end user's computer, said network computer
5	having access to a program storage device containing software for license to end users
6	and a program storage device containing a database listing computer identifiers licensed
7	to run the software, said end user computer having a program storage device and a unique
8	computer identifier distinguishing the end user computer from other computers, said
9	computer program product having:
10	computer readable program code means for contacting the end user computer using

computer readable program code means for contacting the end user comp the network computer;

computer readable program code means for determining the end user computer identifier;

computer readable program code means for verifying listing of the end user computer identifier in the network computer database;

computer readable program code means for downloading software from the network computer; and

computer readable program dode means for installing the downloaded software on the end user computer program storage device.

An article of manufacture comprising: a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for installing licensed software from a network computer to an end user's computer, said network computer having access to a program storage device containing software for license to end users and a program storage device containing a database listing computer identifiers licensed to run the software, said end user computer having a program storage device and a unique computer identifier distinguishing the end user computer from other computers, the computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture comprising:

computer readable program code means for contacting the end user computer using the network computer;

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cl	mputer	readable	program	code	means	for	determining	the	end	user	computer
	identif	ier;									

- computer readable program code means for verifying listing of the end user computer identifier in the network computer database;
- computer readable program code means for downloading software from the network computer; and
- computer readable program code means for installing the downloaded software on the end user computer program storage device.